

1 AN ACT relating to relating to essential caregivers and declaring an emergency.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 216.505 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) As used in this section:

5 (a) "Community" means assisted-living community as defined in KRS 194A.700;

6 (b) "Facility" includes long-term care facilities as defined in KRS 216A.010 and  
7 residential long-term care facilities as defined in KRS 216.510; and

8 (c) "Mental hospital" means a state-owned or -operated mental or psychiatric  
9 hospital.

10 (2) Notwithstanding any state law to the contrary, the Cabinet for Health and Family  
11 Services shall require a community, a facility, and a mental hospital to permit in-  
12 person resident visitation by at least one (1) essential personal care visitor,  
13 including a family member, legal guardian, outside caregiver, friend, or volunteer  
14 who is important to the mental, physical, or social well-being of the resident.

15 (3) The cabinet shall, within fourteen (14) days of *the effective date of this*  
16 *Act*~~[February 7, 2022]~~, promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with  
17 KRS Chapter 13A that, subject to applicable federal requirements:

18 (a) Establish procedures for a resident to designate at least one (1) essential  
19 personal care visitor and procedures to change the designated essential  
20 personal care visitor;

21 (b) Exempt an essential personal care visitor, *including during a communicable*  
22 *disease outbreak in the community, facility, or mental hospital, regardless*  
23 *of the resident's communicable disease status,* from any prohibitions on  
24 visiting a resident of a community, a facility, or a mental hospital other than  
25 the requirements in this subsection;

26 (c) Require an essential personal care visitor to follow safety protocols of the  
27 community, the facility, or the mental hospital;

- 1 (d) Require an essential personal care visitor to assume a risk of contracting  
2 communicable diseases, provided the community, the facility, or the mental  
3 hospital is compliant with the Kentucky Department for Public Health  
4 guidelines;
- 5 (e) Permit a community, a facility, or a mental hospital to require a written  
6 visitation agreement with an essential personal care visitor;
- 7 (f) Permit a community, facility, or mental hospital to limit visitation of an  
8 essential personal care visitor to the resident or residents he or she is approved  
9 to visit;
- 10 (g) Permit a community, facility, or mental hospital to limit the total number of  
11 essential personal care visitors allowed in the community, facility, or mental  
12 hospital at any one (1) time; and
- 13 (h) Except as provided in this section, do not require a community, facility, or  
14 mental hospital to permit an in-person visitor at all times.

15 ➔Section 2. Whereas, the General Assembly recognizes that the mental, physical,  
16 and social well-being of residents in health facilities is greatly enhanced by assistance  
17 from essential personal care visitors, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes  
18 effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a  
19 law.